

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

As discussed in a telephonic interview on March 16, 2006, claim 1 has been revised. Specifically, in claim 1(b), the word 'fluid', which may refer to either gas or liquid, has been amended to 'gas'.

As discussed, the JP'331 reference does permit gas communication above the barrier, whereas the reverse weir in the present invention does not. Furthermore, the Ashbrook reference teaches a gas inlet and outlet on one side of the partition, whereas the gas inlet and gas outlet are separated by the reverse weir in the present invention. Both distinguishing features are claimed elements in claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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